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AGRICULTURE  
ABRIDGED CHRONOLOGY OF AGRICULTURE'S PART IN THE WAR

Office of Information

The following incomplete list of events and actions, described briefly in chronological order, should enable the reader to picture the part the Department of Agriculture has played in furthering the war effort.

May 1940: The Department of Agriculture established a defense committee under the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration to study rural defense power needs and power sources. This committee cooperated with the other agencies of the Government in early defense efforts and later in problems arising out of the war.

December 26, 1940: The Secretary of Agriculture, foreseeing that the National Defense Program would lead to increased consumer purchasing power called for the expansion of the hog-production program. Indications then were that the spring pig crop would be 14 percent below that of 1940. The Secretary asked for a crop at least as large as that of 1940. Such a 1941 spring crop was produced. Increased marketing of beef cattle in 1941 was also advised.

December 31, 1940: By the end of the year most of the effort of the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, was oriented to defense work. The Laboratory works on wood substitutes for critical metals, wood in aircraft construction, shipping-container supplies for Army ordnance, and numerous other war problems in wood utilization. Later, the Forest Service also carried on surveys of supplies, production, and wartime requirements for the primary forest products.

March 11, 1941: The Lend-Lease Act was signed.

April 3, 1941: The Secretary of Agriculture announced the Food For Defense Program designed to help farmers produce the food required by new foreign (Lend-Lease) and domestic demand. It was also announced that the prices of hogs, chickens, eggs, and dairy products would be supported through Government purchase programs. This price support was authorized by the Steagall Amendment to the Act extending the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Public 147, 77th Congress.

May 5, 1941: A letter from the President directed the establishment of an Office for Agricultural Defense Relations (later Office for Agricultural War Relations) to bring into common focus the consideration of farmers' needs and problems as related to the prosecution of the defense program and later of the war. It was to help solve farmers' difficulties in obtaining production, equipment, supplies, labor transport facilities, and storage space required to expand production.



May 6, 1941: A price-support program was announced designed to expand the production of certain varieties of dried beans. A statement was also issued on tomato prices in the effort to stimulate production by enabling growers to get more equitable returns for their crop.

July 5, 1941: The field forces of the Department in each State and county were organized into U.S.D.A. Defense Boards under the chairmanship of the chairman of the State and county A.A.A. committees. The Boards form a rallying point for the responsible officers in each State and county and to focus the efforts of the Department and co-operating State agencies so as to render farmers more prompt and efficient aid in carrying on their war activities.

July 1941: The farm resources of the Nation were surveyed in order to plan attainable food-production goals for 1942.

August 4, 1941: The Secretary of Agriculture announced steps for promotion of community food-preparation programs in rural schools and other community centers as a part of the national defense nutrition program. The plan provided for ten regional conferences throughout the United States and lending of money for equipping nutrition centers through the Rural Electrification Administration.

September 8, 1941: The Food For Freedom farm-production goals for 1942 were announced.

October 1941: The Boards and the A.A.A. county and community committeemen canvassed the farms and helped operators frame their individual 1942 production plans to enable them to produce their proportionate share of the farm-production goals.

October 5, 1941: Under a cooperative agreement with the Office of Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, the Forest Service undertook the topographic mapping of several thousand square miles as part of the National Defense Mapping Program of strategic areas.

October 23, 1941: A Nation-wide program for the repair of farm machinery was outlined in a letter from the Secretary to the Boards.

October 29, 1941: A farm scrap-collection campaign was inaugurated by a letter from the Secretary addressed to the Boards.

December 7, 1941: Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, numerous Forest Service lookout stations were immediately made a part of the Army Aircraft Warning System. In a letter to Secretary of Agriculture on January 6, 1942, the Secretary of War established official procedure for placing Department and State lookout stations in warning system. More than 600 observation posts now function.

December 13, 1941: The Department was reorganized to streamline it for the war effort. Seventeen of its agencies were combined into eight groups the heads of which only reported directly to the Secretary thereafter. The Department War Board was formed from the heads of these eight

agencies, and the staff officers heading the Office for Agricultural Defense Relations, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the Extension Service. The Agricultural Research Administration was established.

December 19, 1941: Goals were announced for the 1942 pack of the four principal vegetables canned - tomatoes, peas, corn, and snap beans. The Department also established fixed prices at which it would purchase the pack from processors who had paid growers specified rates for the crops.

December 19-20, 1941: The National Garden Conference was held under the joint auspices of the Department of Agriculture, the Federal Security Agency, and the Office of Civilian Defense.

January 7, 1942: The Secretary directed that the titles of the State and county U.S.D.A. Defense Boards be changed to U.S.D.A. War Boards.

January 16, 1942: The new goals for 1942 farm production, revised after December 7, were announced, placing special emphasis upon an increased production of fats and oils by greatly increasing acreages of soybeans, peanuts, and flaxseed. Price support and loans were made available.

March 8, 1942: The Forest Service and the Bureau of Plant Industry made joint announcement of their guayule rubber project following immediately the passage of appropriate legislation by the Congress.

May 8, 1942: The Secretary made a statement before the Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry investigating the uses of farm crops in the production of alcohol and synthetic rubber. He advocated the use of 80 million bushels of wheat or corn to produce alcohol to turn into 220,000 tons of butadiene, the principal raw material for 240,000 tons of synthetic rubber.

May 14, 1942: The Bureau of Plant Industry announced the arrival of a small shipment of Russian dandelion, (Kok-Saghyz) seeds which were to be used for experimental plantings to determine where the plant would best grow here. \* \* \* \* The Victory Food Special program was announced designed to increase the consumption of foods in temporary or seasonal abundance and to divert consumers from foods more badly needed for our armed forces and our allies.

May 19, 1942: A program was adopted designed to enable canners to operate at maximum production, farmers to produce at capacity, and consumers to procure canned vegetables without having to pay extremely high prices. Price support was then and later given to twelve canned vegetables in addition to the four mentioned December 19 previously.

June 5, 1942: The program to aid producers of dehydrated vegetables needed by our armed forces and for lend-lease shipment was undertaken as an emergency research project by several bureaus of the Agricultural Research Administration.



\* \* \* \* A Foods Requirements Committee, with control over the production and allocation of all civilian and military food supplies, was named by Chairman Donald M. Nelson of the WPB, with Secretary Wickard as Chairman. It was intended to be a centralized body with power to direct and handle the wartime food problem in close coordination with other complicated war-production problems. \* \* \* Secretary Wickard approved an agreement between the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Forest Service under which the Service, acting as the Corporation's agent, would conduct a large-scale enterprise for the production of spruce logs suitable for airplane lumber from the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

June 9, 1942: The White House announced the appointment of a Combined Food Board composed of Secretary Wickard and Hon. Robert H. Brand, head of the British Food Mission, to effect planned and expeditious utilization of the food resources of the United Nations.

June 30, 1942: Secretary Wickard allocated to the Forest Service \$223,000 from the Norris-Doxey Act appropriation to establish, in cooperation with the States, a forest-products marketing service for farmers. The service provides information on markets and assistance in marketing operations. It encourages cutting of forest products needed for war and forest-management practices that will effect continuing production and returns from farm woodlands.

July 20, 1942: The Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration halted all construction of rural power lines under the Federal lending program in order to conserve critical materials for the war effort.

July 23, 1942: Secretary Wickard announced a three-point program to help alleviate the existing meat shortage. The prices paid for meat by the Department in purchasing for Lend-Lease shipment were reduced; local adjustments were made to try to bring prices into line with actual costs to packers; plans were formulated to enable packers to continue operation when they faced the necessity for suspending.

August 1942: The Department furnished the Signal Corps a group of its rural electrification engineers for construction work in connection with the Alcan highway.

August 7, 1942: A program of Government aid in supplying farm labor, set up by the War Manpower Commission and the Department was announced. It was to be managed by the Farm Security Administration in cooperation with the War Boards and the U. S. Employment Service. It included paying the transportation of farm workers for distances exceeding 200 miles; standard minimum wages; an educational program for the efficient use of labor in wartime food production; and the utilization of some Canadian and Mexican labor.

August 20, 1942: Machinery had been set up for transporting domestic farm workers into areas where serious labor shortages existed. Concerted efforts were being made to retain experienced managers on farms, to get industry to recruit its labor in cities, and to utilize fully the under-employed workers on small family farms in low-income groups by providing Farm Security Administration loans. \* \* \* \* The Secretary stated that he no longer felt price ceilings on livestock should be prohibited by law until prices reached 110 percent of parity and that he hoped for the repeal of this provision.

August 28, 1942: A pricing, marketing, and processing program for the major oil crops was announced to protect prices to farmers, to implement the price supports announced by the Department as an inducement to farmers to increase their production of cottonseed, peanuts, soybeans, and linseed for oil, and to preserve OPA ceiling prices on vegetable oil products.

September 1, 1942: The Secretary, as Chairman of the Foods Requirements Committee, announced a voluntary meat-conservation program to be followed in due time by rationing. The amount of meat that packers could sell into civilian trade was limited. Civilians were asked to consume no more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds per person per week of pork, beef, veal, lamb, and mutton.

September 1942: The Department announced a diversion and purchase program in 13 States to encourage the packing of sauer kraut in wooden containers to prevent a large part of the kraut cabbage crop from going to waste for lack of tin to be used in packing it.

September 17, 1942: A temporary order prohibiting the sale of new farm machinery and equipment, except as specified in a rationing scheme governing its release, was announced and became effective immediately. An OPA order of the previous day had delegated to the Department authority to ration such machinery and equipment.

October 2, 1942: The Price Stabilization Act was signed, Sections 3 and 8 of which especially concerned agricultural commodities.

October 7, 1942: The President authorized the Secretary to increase Commodity Credit Corporation loan rates on cotton, tobacco, rice, and marketing-quota peanuts from 85 to 90 percent of parity.

October 14, 1942: Goals were announced calling for a 15-30 percent increase of acreage in carrots, lima beans, snap beans, and onions, and for the same acreage as in 1942 for cabbage, fresh tomatoes, beets, and spinach. The following were designated less essential or nonessential vegetables and, as was announced November 9, their acreage should be reduced 70-85 percent; Cantaloupes, cucumbers, cauliflower, eggplant, watermelon, bleached celery, head lettuce, green peppers, asparagus, artichokes. The Department will give no aid to growers of these in obtaining transportation, labor, fertilizers, containers, and so on. On November 9 broccoli also was added to the list of vegetables for which the acreage is to be maintained.



October 21, 1942: The Department and the OPA jointly announced the completion of a program designed to prevent increases in the price of bread and flour to American consumers.

October 28, 1942: The War Manpower Commission announced a broad program to stabilize employment on dairy, livestock, and poultry farms, under a directive requiring the Selective Service System to ask local draft boards to grant occupational deferments to necessary men in these lines for whom replacements are unavailable. \* \* \* \* All new farm machinery and equipment, except repair parts, was frozen as of November 1 under Temporary Rationing Order B which was to remain in effect until State and county quotas were established as a basis for a permanent rationing order. The Department and the State War Boards were to establish these quotas. On December 31 the freeze was released, and farmers thereafter required purchase certificates to buy under rationing.

November 10, 1942: The War Manpower Commission issued a directive to Government agencies putting into effect its program for conserving, training, and recruiting labor on dairy, livestock, and poultry farms. The program got under way experimentally by November 22, the Farm Security Administration handling it. Recruits were to be trained at State colleges and, then placed on jobs, the U. S. Employment Service cooperating in selecting families to be moved. Transportation is provided. Written contract agreements between employers and workers are required. The program is to help get low-income farm families into productive agricultural employment.

November 17, 1942: With funds provided by the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the Forest Service undertook tropical timber studies in Central and South American countries to obtain information on forest products sources, supplies, and uses for war ship-building, military construction, and other war needs. Department foresters already were making a survey of quinine sources in Colombia.

December 1, 1942: The 1943 Agricultural Adjustment Agency program was announced placing special emphasis on war crops with payment deductions on farms failing to meet war-production goals. Farmers are to make wartime crop adjustments and also to adopt approved soil conservation practices to ensure increased acre yields and protection of the soil.

December 5, 1942: The President issued an Executive Order placing responsibility for the entire national wartime food program upon the Secretary of Agriculture who was directed to ascertain needs, formulate and implement programs to fill them, assign food priorities and make allocations, take such steps as required to effect the efficient and proper distribution of the available food supply, and purchase and procure food for Federal agencies.

December 9, 1942: An American cheddar cheese subsidy program was announced to expand production by increasing the returns to farmers who ship milk



to cheese factories. Under the program the Government purchases all such cheese delivered by factories at a fixed price and then sells it back to the factories, without effecting physical transfer, at 2 3/4 cents less per pound than the purchase price. This should enable factories to pay farmers a price that will attract milk for the needed increase in cheese production and yet prevent a rise in price to consumers.

December 10, 1942: The Department of Agriculture was reorganized to facilitate the carrying out of the national food program entrusted to the Secretary on December 5. The activities of the Department were in the main grouped into a Food Production Administration, a Food Distribution Administration, and an Agricultural Research Administration, the functions of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Forest Service, and the Rural Electrification Administration remaining essentially unchanged. There was also transferred to the Department certain personnel and equipment from the WPB and OCS. The Agricultural War Board was reduced to 8 administrative and staff officers.

December 17, 1942: There was announced a three-way cooperative program of the CCC with flour millers and distillers to increase the production of industrial alcohol for war purposes by the use of Government-owned wheat, perhaps 50 million bushels, which was to be sold to millers for manufacture into granular form, a free-flowing hard-wheat flour, for resale to distillers.

December 19, 1942: The Secretary appointed the Food Advisory Committee thus automatically abolishing the Foods Requirements Committee.

December 24, 1942: The 1943 CCC loan and purchase program for the gum naval stores crop was announced. The program is to be made available through the American Turpentine Farmers Association cooperative to producers who comply with the 1943 Naval Stores Conservation Program of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency and the Forest Service.

December 30, 1942: Food Distribution Order No. 1 was issued, effective January 18, to help prevent a rise in the price of bread to consumers, to conserve bread supplies and critical materials used by bakers, to effect savings of labor and equipment in the baking industry, and to safeguard the nutritional value of our bread.

December 31, 1942: It was announced that the Food Stamp Plan would be suspended March 1, 1943, but that the School Lunch and School Milk Plans would remain operative.

January 4, 1943: It was announced that the total civilian per capita consumption of canned goods would range between 35.4 and 40.3 pounds in 1943; this includes commercially canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups, baked beans, and canned baby food.

January 6, 1943: Food Distribution Order No. 2 was issued directing creamery butter manufacturers to set aside 30 percent of their monthly production, if they produced more than 12,000 pounds in any month the past year, for direct war purposes, beginning February 1. About two-thirds of the butter so set aside goes to the armed forces. \* \* \* \* An order was also issued to ensure an adequate supply of citrus fruit juices for direct war requirements and so timing the distribution of civilian supplies that canned grapefruit juice would be available when fresh fruit supplies were seasonably low. The production of all citrus juices except unconcentrated grapefruit juice was reserved for war requirements and canners were prohibited from selling unconcentrated grapefruit juice till after the end of March.

January 7, 1943: Machinery was established to deal with temporary local food shortages arising from maldistribution of supplies. State and area committees were being organized under the Food Production Administration to handle critical supply problems, to determine the causes of local shortages, and to recommend steps to prevent recurrence. Trade groups cooperate.

January 8, 1943: Provision was made to permit farmers in the commercial corn area to overplant their corn allotments without penalty, provided they had already planted their goal of such war crops as hemp, flax, soybeans, dry beans, dry peas, and hay and pasture for livestock. The Department also announced it would support the price of barley from the 1943 crop at a level equal to its feeding value in relation to corn.

January 12, 1943: Food Distribution Order No. 6 was issued requiring citrus fruit handlers in California, Florida, Texas, and Arizona to set aside specified quantities of lemons, grapefruit, limes, and oranges except tangerines, for processing, to effect maximum utilization of existing facilities for the production of citrus juices, especially concentrates, for war requirements. \* \* \* \* This was Farm Mobilization Day by Presidential proclamation.

January 17, 1943: Secretary Wickard announced the Department's policy on the employment of dollar-a-year men; if employed, they can have no administrative responsibility or authority but must be assigned to a consultant's panel. \* \* \* \* Increased acreages of potatoes, dry beans and fresh truck crops were asked under a production-payment program for plantings in excess of 90 and up to 110 percent of the goals.

January 19, 1943: Food Distribution Order No. 8 was issued on the use of milk and milk products for the civilian production of ice cream. A cut to 65 percent of the quantities used for this purpose during the period December 1, 1941 to November 30, 1942, was ordered to save milk enough to produce 97½ million pounds of butter and 68 million pounds of dry skim milk per year.

January 20, 1943: The Selective Service Bureau of the War Manpower Commission announced liberalization of the requirements for agricultural deferments. \* \* \* \* Food Directive No. 1 was issued. It stated



that consumer rationing of all fruits, fruit juices, vegetables, vegetable juices, soups, and baby foods had already been authorized, insofar as they were packed in hermetically sealed containers of any type and heat sterilized, or were frozen, dried, or dehydrated. The following items were included in the Directive to facilitate the administrative preparations for rationing when necessary; Fish, shellfish, jams, jellies, preserves, fruit butters, pickles, relishes, and canned milk. Rationing of these products was not asked immediately. \* \* \* \* The War Production Board at the request of the Department, liberalized its regulations with regard to electric service extensions to farmers. Under the new plan farms which meet certain requirements can obtain electric service for increasing food production by securing approval of the County War Board.

January 21, 1943: A drive was announced to get farm families to produce and preserve as much as possible of their year's food needs. It was hoped that 30 million tons of food could be produced by them for home supply entirely outside commercial transportation systems and processing capacity. \* \* \* \* Additional funds of from 200 to 225 million dollars were made available at the county level through the Food Production Administration as credit for the production of essential wartime food and fiber. Financing is to take place through the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation of Washington, D. C., which is under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration, and will be supplemental to other sources of credit.

January 22, 1943: Secretary's Memorandum No. 1054, Supplement 2, was issued which made some further changes in the organization of the Department to facilitate the carrying out of the national food program. Committees on Foreign Purchase and Importation and on Domestic Transportation were created. \* \* \* \* It was announced that the harvest of Russian dandelion roots from the experimental plantings made by Forest Service and the tests of them carried on at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory had progressed favorably.

January 23, 1943: Food Distribution Order No. 11 was issued to effect milk-marketing economy, to eliminate packages below one quart deliverable to consumers, to limit large-scale purchasers to two handlers unless they buy in excess of 300 quarts from each, and to enforce other procedures to render milk marketing more efficient and economical.

January 25, 1943: Unified responsibility for supplying labor for war production on farms was given to the Secretary of Agriculture by the Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, consolidating functions previously divided between the United States Employment Service and the Department of Agriculture. Operating responsibility for recruiting and placing farm labor, the determination of needs and areas of supply, the transportation of farm workers to shortage areas, and the determination of war-essential crops were thus brought together in the Department which, under a previous directive from the Director of Economic Stabilization, also has responsibility for dealing with farm wages.

January 26, 1943: An incentive-payment program was announced to obtain greater production of sweetpotatoes, soybeans, grain sorghums, peanuts, flax, and dried peas. The payments are to total 100 million dollars and are to be made to farmers who produce in excess of 90 and up to 100 percent of their goals. The goals were at the same time increased, the incentive payment being offered to compensate farmers for their added costs in achieving the increased goals.

January 27, 1943: The School Lunch Program was so changed that hereafter sponsoring organizations will purchase food supplies from local merchants and farmers and be reimbursed by the Food Distribution Administration. \* \* \* \* A program was announced to increase the acreage of designated truck and vegetable crops for fresh consumption. The crops included carrots, snap beans, lima beans, beets, tomatoes, cabbage, onions, and green peas grown for fresh consumption. Incentive payments will be offered for plantings in excess of 90 and up to 110 percent of goals, and also for planting two successive crops on the same acreage during the period, February 1, 1943--September 1, 1943.

January 28, 1943: The Department, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, offered special price support to growers of tomatoes, peas, sweet corn, and snap beans for processing. It will purchase the output of processors certified to have paid specified minimum prices to growers, and then resell to the canners, at prices to be announced, at a discount sufficient to permit them to pay the growers. Growers must contract with certified canners to assure themselves of price support. Farmers were urged to contract for all acreage necessary to enable processors to operate at capacity.

January 30, 1943: A supplemental price-support program was announced to increase the acreage of dried peas by the use of incentive payments.

January 31, 1943: An additional three million cases of evaporated milk was released to civilian consumers from stocks held by the Food Distribution Administration.

February 3, 1943: It was announced that the price of potatoes would be supported at 92 percent of parity in order to increase production to fill wartime demands.

February 5, 1943: A program of special advances was announced to encourage the additional production of specified war crops, and to insure producers against loss on high-risk crops or crops they would not otherwise undertake to grow. The advances will be extended through the county War Boards and the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation of the Farm Credit Administration. The following crops were specified: Potatoes where the farm goal is 3 acres or more, soybeans for beans, flax for seed or fiber, peanuts to be harvested and picked, hemp for seed or fiber, dry beans, dry peas excluding wrinkled varieties, castor-beans, tomatoes, snap beans, lima beans, peas, carrots for processing or fresh sale, cabbage, sweet corn, and table beets, the last three for processing only.



February 6, 1943: Southern farmers were asked to plant as much of their 1943 farm cotton allotments as possible, though not to exceed them, after meeting special war-crop goals. This is to increase yields of cottonseed oil and meal and cotton linters. \* \* \* \* Food Distribution Order No. 14 was issued reserving 25 percent of the peanut-oil production at the point of refining to assure adequate quantities for essential war uses.

February 7, 1943: Cooperative arrangements were announced whereby the basic food research needed by the Army Quartermaster Corps and the Navy Bureau of Supplies and Accounts can be conducted by the Agricultural Research Administration. Two consulting committees were appointed to cooperate with and advise the Director of the ARA, one consisting of outstanding experts in nutrition and the other of food-processing-industry research personnel.

February 8, 1943: The Cheddar cheese industry was directed to set aside one-half of its monthly production for direct war use under Food Distribution Order No. 15 which becomes effective February 15. Domestic consumption of all cheese by civilians is expected to be approximately four-fifths of the 1941 consumption. Manufacturers of less than 8,000 pounds of Cheddar monthly are not included. Prospective per capita consumption for 1943 is 4.8 pounds as compared with 6.4 in 1942, about 6 in 1938-39, 5.3 in 1935, and a 1935-39 average of 5.6 pounds. \* \* \* \* The Secretary issued a directive delegating to the Secretary of the Interior responsibility for the catching, harvesting, and processing of fish and reserving to the Department of Agriculture the wartime functions of allocation, reservation limitation, Federal Procurement, and container supply. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the FDA will work in close cooperation. \* \* \* A goal of 18,000,000 Victory Gardens was set up as compared with 15,000,000 in 1942.

February 9, 1943: An Inter-Agency Food Procurement Committee was created consisting of representatives of principal Government agencies buying food for war purposes. It consists of members from the Food Distribution Administration, the Director of which is Chairman, the War Department, the Navy Department, the Marine Corps, the Veterans' Administration, the War Production Board, the Board of Economic Warfare, the Office of Price Administration, and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

February 14, 1943: The program designed to mobilize more than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million workers to help farmers meet the Nation's increased food and fiber requirements for 1943 was announced. This program complies with the War Manpower Commission's directive assigning the Department responsibility for farm labor. It is designed to provide year-round, seasonal, and emergency harvest workers.

February 17, 1943: The castor-bean seed-production program was announced, designed to produce a stockpile of approximately 3 million pounds of pure variety castor-beans for planting purposes.

February 20, 1943: At the Secretary's request dry edible beans, dry peas, lentils, and dehydrated and dry soups were added to the list of foods to be rationed to consumers by the OPA beginning March 1, because of heavy demands by our armed forces and the Russian Army for dry beans and dry peas.

February 23, 1943: The Department of Agriculture and the Office of Education announced their joint campaign to recruit from 500,000 to 650,000 Victory Farm Volunteers among non-farm youth to do farm work during the spring and summer months. These will be part of the U. S. Crop Corps. \* \* \* \* Wheat marketing quotas were suspended in a move to insure adequate food and feed supplies.

March 1, 1943: An Agricultural Labor Administration was created in the Department to be responsible for the development and direction of all phases of its farm labor program. It took over such work previously carried on by the Agricultural Labor Branch of the FPA, and will integrate farm labor work done by the FDA, the FSA, and the Extension Service, or elsewhere in the Department.

March 5, 1943: A three-point program to prevent black market operations was announced as part of a national meat-management plan. It involved livestock slaughter under a permit system; complete records of all operations of slaughterers; and the setting aside for war use of designated percentages of their production by slaughterers operating under Federal inspection.

March 8, 1943: It was announced that farm families enlisted in the 1943 food production program will be awarded a Certificate of Farm War Service in recognition of their efforts.

March 10, 1943: Announcement was made of a meeting of fatty oils manufacturers with Department representatives in Washington to discuss ways and means of combating the shortage of fats and oils; the expansion of tall oil refining capacity was proposed, this being a pulpwood by-product which can be used as an "extender" of fats and oils.

March 11, 1943: The Secretary authorized the OPA to institute rationing of meats, edible fats and oils including butter, cheese, and canned fish on or before April 1.

March 13, 1943: A price-support program to facilitate increased production and processing of canning vegetables in 1943 was announced, superseding the program announced January 28 last. The program assures farmers 20 to 50 percent higher prices for their crops than in 1942 and protects canners against losses due to increased cost of raw products. Crops involved are: Tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, green peas, lima beans, beets, carrots, and cabbage for kraut. CCC will buy raw materials from canners to support prices and then re-sell to them at 1942 prices. OPA collaborates with the Department in the program.



March 16, 1943: The Standing Agricultural Committee of Canada and the United States of America, consisting of officials of both countries, was established to coordinate production and distribution policies of the two countries.

March 23, 1943: Food Distribution Order 40 was issued providing that all shell eggs in cold storage on May 31 shall be set aside for governmental agencies. This was done on the basis of information that storage had so increased in recent weeks that the heavy movement of shell eggs into storage adversely affected civilian supplies. Food Distribution Order 41 was issued reserving the entire 1943 production of spray-process dried whole eggs for delivery to governmental agencies. It also limited production of frozen and liquid eggs, dried yolks, dried albumen, and pan-dried whole eggs to the quantities produced and sold for commercial use in 1942, but it will not reduce the quantity of such products available for civilian use below the civilian consumption level of 1942.

March 24, 1943: The transfer of the Nutrition Division of the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Service to the Department's Food Distribution Administration was announced, pursuant to Executive Order 9310, issued by the President on March 9. The Division will form the nucleus of a Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch in the FDA, which will attempt to align every kitchen in the Nation with the war food program.

March 26, 1943: The President's Executive Order established an Administration of Food Production and Distribution consolidating the former Food Production Administration (except Farm Credit Administration), Food Distribution Administration, Commodity Credit Corporation, and Extension Service. The Administrator of Food Production and Food Distribution will hold powers conferred on the Secretary by the Executive Order of December 5, 1942, including those with respect to farm manpower and labor. The Secretary will continue as a member of WPB, chairman of the Inter-Departmental Committee, and United States representative on the Combined Food Board.

March 30, 1943: The Food Distribution Administration announced it would soon release two million cases of canned fruits and vegetables to augment civilian supplies. \* \* \* \* The Rubber Director and the Secretary of Agriculture jointly announced that the Guayule Emergency Rubber Program is to be curtailed to minimize interference with food-crops production. Such high-grade, irrigated land leased but not already planted to guayule will be turned back to owners or subleased for food production. No further lands will be leased for the rubber project.

April 19, 1943: A supplement to Executive Order No. 9322 of March 26, named the new Department food agency the War Food Administration and clarified the powers and functions of the Secretary of Agriculture and the War Food Administrator.

April 30, 1943: The WFA announced a new organization under a deputy administrator to administer the farm labor program.

May 10, 1943: The WFA established an Office of Materials and Facilities under a deputy administrator to have charge of all programs concerned with supplies, machinery, equipment, materials, and facilities used in producing and processing food. \* \* \* The ARA announced that apple sirup, which its scientists developed to make use of off-grade fruit and apple waste, was in large-scale commercial production and, among other things, was being used by the tobacco industry to replace glycerin needed in making explosives.

May 13, 1943: The administrators in charge of food production and food distribution activities became members of the Executive Staff of the WFA. \* \* \* The ARA announced an improved method for dehydrating natural American cheddar cheese for Lend-Lease and other uses, which will release spray-drying equipment for drying other foods.

May 17, 1943: A War Meat Board was established to facilitate the handling of the Nation's meat supply, as was jointly announced by the WFA and the OPA.

May 18, 1943: The ARA announced a new type of lignin plastic which can be made from farm wastes and used to replace metal for many purposes, including some military. The Northern Regional Research Laboratory had made the plastic from cornstalks, wheat straw, flax shives, and other fibrous materials.

May 19, 1943: The WFA sharply reduced the quantities of canned fruits and vegetables that canners must set aside from 1943 production for Government requirements.

May 25, 1943: The War Food Administrator asked Governors and Commissioners of Agriculture in flood-stricken States of the middle Mississippi basin to meet with his personal representative on May 26 to formulate a joint Federal-State program for 1943 food production in the flooded areas.

May 26, 1943: The WFA and the WPB announced a program to relieve farmers' lumber needs for essential repair and construction, the latter extending a AA-2 preference rating for delivery of 500,000,000 board feet of lumber during June to September, on authorized purchase certificates, the distribution phase of the program being handled by the WFA. \* \* \* \* The WFA announced the appointment of a Director of Transportation to act as the Administrator's direct representative in coordinating the transportation work of its constituent agencies.

May 28, 1943: The WFA announced measures are being provided to requisition idle farm machinery where necessary to make it available for purchase by farmers in need of it or who can put it to full use. \* \* \* \* The Forest Service announced completion of experimental plantings of four selected strains of goldenrod, totaling 650 acres, as part of the emergency rubber program.

May 31, 1943: Discontinuance of Commodity Credit Corporation sales of wheat for feed after May 31, except to take care of emergency situations, was announced by the WFA.



June 3, 1943: The Beverages and Tobacco Division of the WPB became part of the WFA, its functions to be administered by the FDA.

June 16, 1943: The WFA took emergency action to keep corn-processing plants supplied with corn needed in the production of war products. At the same time it called all loans on the 1942 crop corn, loans to be paid or the corn delivered to the CCC not later than July 15. \* \* \* \* The ARA announced a method of producing alcohol from wheat without the addition of malt, with the possibility of separating protein and starch at the beginning of the alcohol process. If this could be done commercially at low expense, a large quantity of protein for livestock feed and other uses could be made available before distillation instead of being recovered from distiller's slop as at present.

June 23, 1943: An Office of Labor was established in the WFA to carry out all labor, manpower, and wage-stabilization programs heretofore carried out by various agencies of the Administration.

June 25, 1943: The WFA announced requisitioning corn stocks in 96 midwestern terminal elevators in a further effort to get corn to vital processing plants, the supply obtained to be allocated later by the Administration.

July 8, 1943: WFA announced its intention to purchase canned vegetables - tomatoes, tomato juice, tomato pulp, tomato paste, sweet corn, snap beans, green peas, lima beans, beets, and carrots - under a price-support program.

July 13, 1943: WFA announced the 1944 all-out food-production program which involved planting 380,000,000 acres to crops.

July 26, 1943: The Secretary announced flood-restoration loans designed to enable farmers to put their flood-damaged farms back into cultivation in 12 midwestern and southern States.

July 31, 1943: Food Distribution Order 71 was issued placing a temporary embargo on the sale, purchase, and processing of turkeys, to enable the armed forces to secure their requirements.

August 9, 1943: WFA announced the allocation to civilians of twelve times the soya products available last year to strengthen the wartime diet.

August 10, 1943: Details of the new, over-all program for licensing livestock slaughterers, effective August 15, were announced by WFA.

August 14, 1943: The Food Industries Labor Branch was transferred from FDA to WFA's Office of Labor.

August 18, 1943: The turkey embargo order was tightened by amendment to restrict all sales to civilians after August 21 until the armed forces' requirement for oversea shipment is met.

August 24, 1943: WFA announced a potato loan program to insure growers of returns as high as the support prices announced at planting time would provide, and to assure orderly distribution of this year's record crop.

August 25, 1943: WFA established the National War Board.

August 26, 1943: The Office of War Board Services was established in WFA under a Director.

August 30, 1943: Attention was called to the fact that Federal standards would require a higher level of enrichment in the manufacture of white bread after October 1, in conformity with new standards for enriched flour prescribed under the Food, Drugs, and Cosmetic Act.

August 31, 1943: The butter set-aside quota was lowered from 30 to 20 percent of September production.

September 1, 1943: Livestock slaughter quotas were suspended for two months.

September 6, 1943: WFA announced its purchase program for 12 classes of 1943-crop dry edible beans.

September 7, 1943: WFA announced that 1,600,000 placements of workers had been made on American farms through the Government farm-labor program during the past four months.

September 8, 1943: WFA authorized the Director of Food Distribution to regulate expanding fluid-milk sales through a system of dealer quotas.

September 18, 1943: It was announced that there would be no marketing quotas for the 1943 corn crop.

September 24, 1943: WFA announced its over-all organizational set-up. It was made clear that Department staff and service agencies form part of and serve the WFA just as they do the USDA.

October 1, 1943: WFA announced the general provisions of a payment program effective October 1-December 31, 1943, to protect dairy farmers against increases in the prices of dairy feeds above the level of September 1942.

October 4, 1943: Potatoes were named a national Victory Food Selection, October 21 to November 6, in view of an all-time high record crop and the need for conserving part thereof in home storage.

October 6, 1943: The functions of WFA and CCC with respect to the procurement and development of food, food machinery, and other food facilities in foreign countries was transferred to and consolidated in the Foreign Economic Administration.



October 14, 1943: WFA announced the formation of an Inter-Agency Committee on Food for Workers to aid in the program of providing food needed by industrial workers, thus assuring the highest efficiency in production. It includes representatives of WFA, WPB, OPA, and WMC. The Director of the FDA is chairman.

October 23, 1943: By General Departmental Circular No. 14 the Administrative Council and its Functions were reconstituted. Its alternate chairmen are now Assistants to the Secretary and the War Food Administration. Its other members are the Directors of Finance and Budget Office, Personnel, and Information; the Solicitor; the Chief of the Office of Plant and Operations; and the Land Use Coordinator.

October 29, 1943: The President, by Executive Order amending previous Order No. 9334, made the War Food Administrator the United States member of the Combined Food Board, with the Secretary as neutral chairman, designated both officials members of the War Production Board, abolished the Food Advisory Committee and the Inter-Agency Allocations Committee, and set up a Food Requirements and Allocations Committee to pass on all domestic and foreign claims for food from U. S. sources in WFA. On the same day the War Food Administrator appointed the Director of FDA chairman of this new committee and also designated him the Administrator's personal representative and deputy on the Combined Food Board. (See also Administrator's Memorandum No. 30, dated October 28, 1943). \* \* \* \* By Administrator's Memorandum No. 31, dated October 29, 1943, the functions of the State and County War Boards were reassigned and redefined; so also were those of Administrative and Department line agencies in the field.

November 6, 1943: Under Supplement 1 to Administrator's Memorandum No. 27, dated November 6, 1943, the name of the Office of Labor Supply was changed back to Office of Labor, minor changes were made in the functions of the Offices of Budget and Finance and of Personnel, and the Office of Land Use Coordination was added to the list of USDA-WFA service and staff agencies.

December 1, 1943: Administrator's Memorandum No. 27, Supplement 2, was issued defining the functions of the Office of Transportation and stating that this Office formed part of the Office of the War Food Administrator and was not one of the WFA program agencies.

December 4, 1943: WFA announced a series of steps to be taken as part of the Government livestock-feed conservation program. These involved elimination of CCC subsidies paid on corn moving from surplus to eastern and southern deficit areas; an increase in the price of feed wheat; and an offer to buy corn during the remainder of 1943 at the old ceiling price in approximately 150 counties on the fringe of the Corn Belt where the new corn ceiling, effective December 6, amounts to a price reduction. The program is designed to bring prices of various feed grains more nearly into line with one another, so as to use and conserve these grains as efficiently as possible and make more feed available in deficit areas.



December 18, 1943: Food Production Order No. 9 was issued by WFA to effect better distribution of protein meal among livestock and poultry feeders and among mixed-feed manufacturers.

December 30, 1943: Administrator's Memorandum No. 11, revised, Supplement 2, discontinued the Office of War Board Services, transferred the personnel to FPA, and the functions to the Chairman of the National War Board.

January 1, 1944: General Departmental Circular No. 21 transferred the functions, personnel, property and records of the Office of Land Use Coordination to the immediate Office of the Secretary.

January 6, 1944: WFA issued its statement on its own and privately owned food stocks.

January 12, 1944: Administrator's Memorandum No. 31, revised, Supplement 1, was issued to supplement Memorandum No. 31 regarding the coordination of activities carried on through State and County War Boards.

January 19, 1944: The spring program on unrationed and low-point foods was announced. The idea is to create larger sales of unrationed and low-point foods and to advise the public that the most practical method of sharing our food supply is to emphasize available and more plentiful foods which are unrationed or of low-point value.

January 21, 1944: Administrator's Memorandum No. 27, Supplement 4, changed the name of the Food Production Administration and the Food Distribution Administration to the Office of Production and the Office of Distribution, respectively; re-defined the functions of these offices and of the Commodity Credit Corporation; and established an Office of Price to deal with problems relating to the approval of maximum prices for, and price support of, agricultural commodities. The Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, and the Farm Security Administration became independent agencies in the War Food Administration.

January 24, 1944: To facilitate the execution of changes prescribed in Administrator's Memorandum 27, Supplement 4, issued January 21, an Administrative Committee was established under the chairmanship of Wilson Cowen, Assistant War Food Administrator. \* \* \* The functions of the Inter-Agency Information Committee were announced. This Committee consists of representatives of War, Navy, WPB, WMC, WLB, PAW, Interior, ODT, RFC, SSS, OPA, Treasury, OES, FHA, Maritime Commission, War Shipping Administration, FEA etc., and its purpose is to increase the flow of government information about production and employment problems.

January 26, 1944: WFA announced proposed 1944 support prices for farm products.

January 29, 1944: A Department Poultry Committee was announced under the chairmanship of W. D. Termohlen, Office of Distribution, with representatives of both WFA and USDA, to serve as a central point of reference for appropriate matters relating to poultry and eggs, and to facilitate the interchange of information and discussion of operating problems and programs which concern more than one agency of the Department.